



Douglas M. Duncan, County Executive



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION—DPWT**

Art Holmes, Jr., Director

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Division of Capital Development

March 2005—Project Newsletter



METROPOLITAN BRANCH TRAIL FACILITY PLANNING STUDY

The Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) invites you to attend a public meeting for the Facility Planning Study for the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

The purpose of the meeting is to share information about the project, discuss the Facility Planning Process, community concerns and to receive your input.

DPWT Public Workshop

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2005

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning
Commission (M-NCPPC)
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910

For more information, contact the Project Manager, Uzair Asadullah at 240-777-7242.

Background and Project Description

The goal of Transportation Facility Planning is to document and justify the need for improved and/or expanded transit, roadways, bridges, and bike/pedestrian facilities. DPWT develops and evaluates alternative solutions/concept plans and recommends the best solution to meet the transportation demands of the future.

Background

The Metropolitan Branch Trail is part of a larger system of trails that will enable non-motorized travel around the Washington region. The overall goal for these trails is to create a bicycle beltway that links Union Station and the Mall in Washington to Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Bethesda and Georgetown. The trail will be an off-road facility serving bicyclists, joggers, in-line skaters and will be ADA accessible. The proposed trail is planned to be 10-12 feet wide. The Montgomery

County Council has funded the completion of Phase I and II Facility Planning for the Metropolitan Branch Trail. Our work started where the M-NCPPC's January, 2001 Facility Plan ended and has focused on completing the study of alignment options and will begin preliminary engineering. Our Study Team includes staff from various divisions within DPWT and M-NCPPC, local and state agencies. The Team meets on a regular basis to review project status and to discuss and resolve any project issues.

Project Description

The project proposed at this meeting will extend along the CSX Railroad corridor from the planned Silver Spring Transit Center to the Montgomery College Campus in Takoma Park. (Refer to Location Map)

The trail will extend southeast from the end of Bonifant Street parallel to and east of the CSX/WMATA railroad corridor to the intersection of Fenton Street and New York Avenue, where it will link to the existing portion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

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At Georgia Avenue, the proposed trail would include a new bridge, slightly north of the existing railroad bridge. From east of Georgia Ave to Fenton Street, three alignment Options have been studied and are briefly described below.

Option 1

From the new Georgia Avenue Bridge, the trail would continue parallel to the existing CSX/WMATA tracks as far as King Street where it would turn east to reach Fenton Street. The trail would follow the west side of Fenton Street to connect with the existing trail on Fenton Street near the College Campus. Option 1 incorporates a new tunnel under Burlington Avenue to separate trail users from Burlington Avenue vehicular traffic.

Option 2

From the new Georgia Avenue Bridge, the trail would turn east crossing Selim Road at-grade and would continue on the southern side of Philadelphia Avenue. The trail would follow along the south side of Philadelphia, cross over Old Philadelphia Avenue and continue along the north side of Old Philadelphia Avenue until it reached

Fenton Street. The trail would follow along the west side of Fenton Street with an at-grade crossing of Burlington Ave and King Street, and connecting to the existing trail on Fenton Street near the College Campus.

Option 3

From the new Georgia Avenue Bridge, the trail would turn east crossing Selim Road at-grade to reach the north side of Philadelphia Avenue with an at-grade crossing. The trail would follow along the north side of Philadelphia Avenue, crossing at-grade to follow along the north side of Old Philadelphia Ave until it reaches Fenton Street. The trail would follow along the west side of Fenton Street with an at-grade crossing of Burlington Avenue and King Street, and connecting to the existing trail on Fenton Street near the College Campus.

JOIN US AT

Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission - Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tuesday, March 22, 2005

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Who is receiving this Newsletter?

This newsletter is being mailed to those citizens whose names appeared on the County's Geographical Information System's (GIS) data base. If you know of any interested party that would like to receive future Metropolitan Branch Trail project newsletters and be added to this mailing list, please contact Ms. Marsha Wheeler-Christ at 240-777-6174.

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Metropolitan Branch Trail — DPWT Public Workshop 3/22/2005

Any questions, please contact Uzair A. Asadullah, Project Manager.

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For alternate formats of this newsletter, please contact the Division of Capital Development at 240-777-7223

Division of Capital Development (DCD)

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dpwt

The Division of Capital Development (DCD) is responsible for planning, engineering, and constructing Montgomery County's infrastructure to the highest safety and performance standards possible while paying close attention to citizen's input, environmental and economic concerns.

The Division of Capital Development (DCD) is responsible for the planning, engineering, and construction of Montgomery County's transportation and public facility network. DCD employs over 100 people and is currently responsible for more than 100 road, bridge, and public building projects.

